Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 122504 ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 IO-13 ORM-02 DHA-02 L-03 /062 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:ALATHERTON, JR./HLK APPROVED BY NEA - ALFRED L. ATHERTON, JR. NSC - W. QUANDT (SUBS) S:DSPIEGEL S/S-O:AWOTTO

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O 270024Z MAY 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 122504

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, US

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE

1. YOU WILL RECEIVE IN WIRELESS FILE THE TRANSCRIPT OF TODAY'S PRESIDENTIAL PRESS CONFERENCE, INCLUDING RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST. IN RESPONSE TO FOLLOW-ON QUERIES, THE FOLLOWING QUESTION AND ANSWER HAS BEEN POSTED BY THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS OFFICE:

BEGIN TEXT:

Q: IN HIS NEWS CONFERENCE TODAY, THE PRESIDENT MENTIONED U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS WHICH PROVIDED FOR A HOMELAND FOR THE PALESTINIANS AND COMPENSATION. CAN YOU TELL US WHAT RESOLUTIONS HE WAS REFERRING TO?

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A: WHEN THE PRESIDENT SPOKE OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS DEALING WITH THE MIDDLE EAST IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE OF MAY 26, HE HAD IN MIND U.N. RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338, WHICH ADDRESSED THE QUESTIONS OF WITHDRAWAL AND THE END OF BELLIGERENCY, AND SECURE AND RECOGNIZED BORDERS, AMONG OTHER PRINCIPLES OF A PEACE AGREEMENT.

THE PRESIDENT ALSO REFERRED TO A HOMELAND FOR THE PALES-TINIANS AND COMPENSATION FOR REFUGEES. AS A MATTER OF HISTORICAL RECORD, U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 181 OF NOVEMBER 1947 PROVIDED FOR THE RECOGNITION OF A JEWISH AND AN ARAB STATE IN PALESTINE, AND U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 194 OF DECEMBER 1948 ENDORSED THE RIGHT OF PALESTINIANS TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES OR TO CHOOSE COMPENSATION FOR LOST PROPERTY.

THE SUBSEQUENT ARMISTICE AGREEMENT OF 1949 MADE CLEAR THAT THESE WERE ISSUES THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE RESOLVED IN A FINAL PEACE AGREEMENT AMONG THE PARTIES.

END TEXT.

2. ISRAELI EMBASSY HAS CALLED TO EXPRESS "DEEP SHOCK" AT REFERENCE IN FOREGOING POSTED ANSWER TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS 181 AND 194, AND YOU WILL UNDOUBTEDLY RECEIVE SIMILAR COMPLAINTS. IN RESPONSE, WE HAVE POINTED OUT THAT REFERENCES TO THOSE TWO GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS WERE CITED AS "A MATTER OF HISTORICAL RECORD" IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT RESOLUTIONS REFERRED TO A HOMELAND AND COMPENSATION FOR PALESTINIANS. WE HAVE STRESSED THAT THE FOREGOING ANSWER MAKES CLEAR THE EVOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM THROUGH THE 1949 ARMISTICE AGREEMENTS TO RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338 WHICH ARE THE PRESENT OPERATIVE FRAMEWORK FOR THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS WE ARE SEEKING TO GET STARTED. OUR ABOVE RESPONSE TO PRESS QUERIES SHOULD IN NO WAY BE INTERPRETED AS A CONFIDENTIAL

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CALL FOR A RETURN TO THE LINES IN THE 1947 PARTITION RESOLUTION.

3. IN RESPONSE TO ANTICIPATED FOLLOW-ON PRESS QUERIES, WE WILL BE RESPONDING AS FOLLOWS AND YOU SHOULD DO THE SAME:

BEGIN TEXT:

THE RESPONSE WHICH WAS POSTED MAY 26 DESCRIBED THE HISTORICAL EVOLUTION OF UN ACTION ON THE MIDDLE EAST. SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338 CONSTITUTE THE CURRENT OPERATIVE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS LOOKING TOWARD A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THAT PROBLEM. THEY REPRESENT THE CURRENTLY ACCEPTED POINT OF DEPARTURE, AND OUR OWN EFFORTS TO WORK FOR A RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE ARE BASED ON THOSE TWO SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS. (IF PRESSED FOR OUR POSITION ON GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 181) WE ARE IN NO SENSE CALLING FOR

A SETTLEMENT BASED ON THE LINES ESTABLISHED IN THAT RESOLUTION. (IF PRESSED FOR OUR POSITION ON GENERAL

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 194) THAT RESOLUTION HAS BEEN REAFFIRMED FROM TIME TO TIME OVER THE YEARS WITH RESPECT TO REPATRIATION OR COMPENSATION FOR PALESTINIAN REFUGEES. END TEXT. VANCE

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

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DRAFTED BY: NEA/IAI:GDKULICK
APPROVED BY: NEA/IAI:WBSMITHII
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 122504

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 122504 ACTION TEL AVIV DTD 27 MAY

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CONFIDENTIAL STATE 122504

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